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Mark R. Albrecht

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Miele Law Group  
137 South Main Street  
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EXAMINER

ALMATRAHI, FARIS S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4137

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/609,033	ALBRECHT, MARK R.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Faris Almatrahi	4137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> .                                  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :November 16, 2006, January 12, 2006.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Status of the Application*

1. **Claims 1-20** are pending in this application.
2. If applicant is aware of any prior art or any co-pending application not already on record, the applicant is reminded of his/her duty under 37 C.F.R §1.56 to disclose the same.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. **Claims 1 and 4** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. **Claim-1** recites the limitations "reporting the status of the financial service project" and "information concerning the ultimate client". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim. Applicant did not specify as to what "financial service project" or "the ultimate client" he is referring to. Claim 1 also recites the limitation "the outsourced personnel preparing the tax returns through a remote limited access client located outside the first and second countries connected to the host server". The limitation as recited does not clearly disclose component of a method claim.

Art Unit: 4137

6. **Claim 4** recites the limitation "comprising the intermediary service firm". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Applicant specified "an intermediary firm" in claim 3 and then narrowed the limitation by disclosing "intermediary service firm" in claim 4. It is unclear as to what the applicant is referring to.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claims 1-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker (US Pat No. 6,473,741) in view of Dang et al. (US Publication No. 2003/0101111).

9. Regarding Claim 1, Baker discloses a tax preparation method comprising:

- For plural respective direct service providers, loading, onto a remotely accessible part of a common host server, client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials, the host server providing access to a remote computer client of information concerning the ultimate client specific files and corresponding reference materials (Column 10 line 56 – Column 11 line 20).

Art Unit: 4137

- Retaining outsourced personnel to prepare tax returns for the clients of the direct service providers, the outsourced personnel preparing the tax returns while located outside the first and second countries (Column 3 lines 1-46).
- Monitoring and reporting the status of the financial service project (Column 12, lines 41-67).

10. Baker fails to explicitly disclose a financial services outsourcing method for facilitating outsourcing of tax return preparation services for numerous clients on behalf of plural direct service providers serving the numerous clients, the financial services being outsourced to a given outsourcing group, the clients comprising a first set of clients in a first country, having tax return filing obligation for the first country, and comprising a second set of clients in a second country having tax return filing obligations for the second country; providing the outsourced personnel limited access to the server; the outsourced personnel preparing the tax returns through a remote limited access client located outside the first and second countries connected to the host server.

11. However, Dang suggests a financial services outsourcing method for facilitating outsourcing of tax return preparation services for numerous clients on behalf of plural direct service providers serving the numerous clients, the financial services being outsourced to a given outsourcing group, the clients comprising a first set of clients in a first country, having tax return filing obligation for the first country, and comprising a second set of clients in a second country having tax return filing obligations for the second country (Paragraph [0108]); providing the outsourced personnel limited access

Art Unit: 4137

to the server (Figure 6, Paragraph [0011]); the outsourced personnel preparing the tax returns through a remote limited access client located outside the first and second countries connected to the host server (Paragraph [0015]).

12. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Dang in the device of Baker reference to include a financial services outsourcing method for facilitating outsourcing of tax return preparation services for numerous clients on behalf of plural direct service providers serving the numerous clients, the financial services being outsourced to a given outsourcing group, the clients comprising a first set of clients in a first country, having tax return filing obligation for the first country, and comprising a second set of clients in a second country having tax return filing obligations for the second country; providing the outsourced personnel limited access to the server; the outsourced personnel preparing the tax returns through a remote limited access client located outside the first and second countries connected to the host server, for the advantage of reducing internal information technology expenses of merchants by eliminating the need for an in-house internally developed tax system (Dang, Paragraph [0036]).

13. Regarding Claim 2, Baker discloses a method wherein the tax preparation services comprise individual tax return preparation services (Column 10 line 56 – Column 11 line 2).

14. Regarding Claim 3, Baker fails to explicitly disclose a method wherein the tax returns are outsourced through an intermediary firm to the outsourced personnel.

Art Unit: 4137

15. However, Dang discloses a method wherein the tax returns are outsourced through an intermediary firm to the outsourced personnel (Paragraphs [0035] – [0036]).

16. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Dang in the device of Baker reference to include a method wherein the tax returns are outsourced through an intermediary firm to the outsourced personnel, for the advantage of reducing internal information technology expenses of merchants by eliminating the need for an in-house internally developed tax system (Dang, Paragraph [0036]).

17. Regarding Claim 4, Baker fails to explicitly disclose a method comprising the intermediary service firm interacting with the outsourced personnel through use of servicing a servicing computer system, and interacting with the plural direct service providers through use of the servicing computer system.

18. However, Dang discloses a method comprising the intermediary service firm interacting with the outsourced personnel through use of servicing a servicing computer system, and interacting with the plural direct service providers through use of the servicing computer system (Paragraph [0086], Paragraph [0092]).

19. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Dang in the device of Baker reference to include a method comprising the intermediary service firm interacting with the outsourced personnel through use of servicing a servicing computer system, and interacting with the plural direct service providers through use of the servicing computer system, for the advantage of reducing internal information technology expenses of



Art Unit: 4137

merchants by eliminating the need for an in-house internally developed tax system (Dang, Paragraph [0036]).

20. Regarding Claim 5, Baker discloses a method wherein the direct service providers comprise accounting firms (Column 3 lines 1-8).

21. Regarding Claims 6 and 8, Baker discloses a method wherein the host server provides limited screen shot access to the remote client computer of information concerning the client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials (Figure 1, Column 11 lines 3-35).

22. Regarding Claims 7-11, Baker fails to explicitly disclose a method wherein the host server comprises a CITRIX server or an ASP server running tax software for use by the plural independent direct service providers provided with access to the ASP server.

23. However, Dang discloses a method wherein the host server comprises Unix-based systems and Windows NT server, which reads on the host server comprising a CITRIX server or an ASP server running tax software for use by the plural independent direct service providers provided with access to the ASP server (Paragraph [0104]).

24. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Dang in the device of Baker reference to include a method wherein the host server comprises a CITRIX server or an ASP server running tax software for use by the plural independent direct service providers provided with access to the ASP server, for the advantage of providing a commonly utilized operating system and server.

Art Unit: 4137

25. Regarding Claim 12, Baker discloses a method wherein the corresponding reference materials comprise image files of physical reference materials (Column 2 lines 1-11).
26. Regarding Claim 13, Baker discloses a method wherein the client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials comprise tax filer specific tax files and image files (Column 9 lines 53-64).
27. Regarding Claim 14, Baker discloses a method further comprising loading onto the remotely accessible part of the host server tax preparation software (Column 9 lines 60-64).
28. Regarding Claim 15, Baker discloses a tax preparation method in the private sector, which reads on the outsourced personnel prepare tax returns while located in India (Column 2 lines 42-67).
29. Regarding Claim 16, Baker discloses a method further comprising a given direct service provider interviewing a tax filer and obtaining supporting documentation for the tax filer's tax return (Column 11 lines 27-35).
30. Regarding Claim 17, Baker discloses a method wherein the direct service provider comprises an accounting firm (Column 3 lines 37-47).
31. Regarding Claim 18, Baker discloses a method wherein the supporting documentation comprises the last season tax return as filed, receipts, and summary information regarding finances of the tax filer (Column 12 lines 1-29).
32. Regarding Claim 19, Baker discloses a method further comprising the given direct service provider setting up a tax file compatible with a given tax software

Art Unit: 4137

package, and rendering the supporting documentation electronic (Column 9 lines 53-64, Column 11 lines 27-35).

33. Regarding Claim 20, Baker discloses a method wherein rendering the supporting documentation electronic comprises scanning supporting documents into image files (Column 9 lines 53-64, Column 11 lines 27-35).

### ***Double Patenting***

34. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

35. Claims 1-20 provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1-3, 5-8, 11, and 13-20 of copending Application No. 10/608,651 and over claims 1-4, 6, 8, 11-14, and 16-26 of copending Application 10/608,664. This is a

Art Unit: 4137

provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not yet been patented.

The subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in the referenced copending application and would be covered by any patent granted on that copending application since the referenced copending application and the instant application are claiming common subject matter, as follows:

Instant Application: 10/609,033	Copending Application: 10/608,651	Copending Application: 10/608,664
<p>Claim 1: A financial services outsourcing method for facilitating outsourcing of tax return preparation services for numerous clients on behalf of plural direct service providers serving the numerous clients, the financial services being outsourced to a given outsourcing group, the clients comprising a first set of clients in a first country, having tax return filing obligations for the first country, and comprising a second set of clients in a second country having tax return filing obligations for the second country, the method comprising: for plural respective direct service providers, loading, onto a remotely accessible part of a common host server, client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials, the host server providing access to a remote computer client of information concerning the ultimate client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials; retaining outsourced personnel to prepare tax returns for the clients of the direct service providers, the outsourced personnel preparing the tax returns while located outside the first and second countries; providing the outsourced personnel limited access to the server; the outsourced personnel preparing the tax returns through a remote limited access client located outside the first and second countries connected to the host server; and monitoring and reporting the status of the financial service project.</p>	<p>Claim 1: A financial services outsourcing method for facilitating a direct service provider's management of human resources for providing financial services to numerous clients, the financial services being outsourced to an outsourcing group abroad, the method comprising: for plural respective direct service providers, loading, onto a remotely accessible part of a common host server located in a given country, client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials, the host server providing access to a remote computer client of information concerning the ultimate client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials; retaining outsourced personnel to perform tax return preparation services for clients of the direct service providers during a tax season in a given year and to perform other financial service projects for the clients of the direct service providers during a different season of the given year, the outsourced personnel preparing the tax returns and performing the other financial service projects while in an outsource country different from the given country; providing the outsourced personnel limited access to the server; the outsourced personnel performing the financial service project through a remote limited access client located in the outsource country; and monitoring and reporting the status of the tax return preparation and of the other financial service projects.</p>	<p>Claim 1: A financial services outsourcing method for facilitating a direct service provider's outsourcing of financial services for numerous ultimate clients, the financial services being outsourced to an outsourcing group abroad, the method comprising: For plural respective direct service providers, loading, onto a remotely accessible part of a common host server located in the United States, ultimate client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials, the host server providing access to a remote computer client of information concerning the ultimate client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials; retaining outsourced personnel to perform financial service projects for ultimate clients of the financial services firms, the outsourced personnel performing the financial service projects while located outside the United States; providing the outsourced personnel limited access to the server; the outsourced personnel performing the financial service project through a remote limited access client located outside the United States connected to the host server; and monitoring and reporting the status of the financial service project.</p> <p>Claim 2: The method according to claim 1, wherein the financial services comprise tax return preparation services.</p>
<p>Claim 2: The method according to claim 1, wherein the tax return preparation services comprise individual tax return preparation services.</p>	<p>Claim 2: The method according to claim 1, wherein the tax return preparation services comprise individual tax return preparation services.</p>	<p>Claim 3: The method according to claim 2, wherein the tax return preparation services comprise individual tax return preparation services.</p>
<p>Claim 3: The method according to claim 1, wherein the tax returns are outsourced through an intermediary firm to the outsourced personnel.</p>	<p>Claim 3: The method according to claim 1, wherein the tax returns are outsourced through an intermediary firm to the outsourced personnel.</p>	<p>Claim 4: The method according to claim 1, wherein the financial services are outsourced through an intermediary firm to the outsourced personnel.</p>

Art Unit: 4137

Claim 4: The method according to claim 3, further comprising the intermediary service firm interacting with the outsourced personnel through use of a servicing computer system, and interacting with the plural direct service providers through use of the servicing computer system.	Claim 5: The method according to claim 3, further comprising the intermediary service firm interacting with the outsourced personnel through use of a servicing computer system, and interacting with the plural direct service providers through use of the servicing computer system.	Claim 6: The method according to claim 4, further comprising an intermediary service firm interacting with the outsourced personnel through use of a servicing computer system, and interacting with the plural direct service providers through use of the servicing computer system.
Claim 5: The method according to claim 3, wherein the direct service providers comprise accounting firms.	Claim 6: The method according to claim 3, wherein the direct service providers comprise accounting firms.	Claim 8: The method according to claim 3, wherein the direct service providers comprise CPA firms.
Claim 6: The method according to claim 1, wherein the host server provides limited screen shot access to the remote client computer of information concerning the client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials.	Claim 7: The method according to claim 1, wherein the host server provides limited screen shot access to the remote client computer of information concerning the client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials.	Claim 11: The method according to claim 2, wherein the host server provides limited screen shot access to the remote client computer of information concerning the ultimate client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials.
Claim 7: The method according to claim 6, wherein the host server comprises a CITRIX server.	Claim 8: The method according to claim 7, wherein the host server comprises a CITRIX server.	Claim 12: The method according to claim 11, wherein the host server comprises a CITRIX server.
Claim 8: The method according to claim 2, wherein the host server provides limited screen shot access to the remote client computer of information concerning the ultimate client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials.	Claim 2 and Claim 7 above	Claim 13: The method according to claim 3, wherein the host server provides limited screen shot access to the remote client computer of information concerning the ultimate client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials.
Claim 9: The method according to claim 8, wherein the host server comprises a CITRIX server.	Claim 2 and Claim 8 above	Claim 14: The method according to claim 13, wherein the host server comprises a CITRIX server.
Claim 10: The method according to claim 1, wherein the host server comprises an ASP server running tax software for use by plural independent direct service providers provided with access to the ASP server.	Claim 11: The method according to claim 1, wherein the host server comprises an ASP server running tax software for use by plural independent direct service providers provided with access to the ASP server.	Claim 16: The method according claim 2, wherein the host server comprises an ASP server running tax software for use by plural independent direct service providers provided with access to the ASP server.
Claim 11: The method according to claim 2, wherein the host server comprises an ASP server running tax software for use by plural independent direct service providers provided with access to the ASP server.	Claim 2 and Claim 11 above	Claim 17: The method according to claim 3, wherein the host server comprises an ASP server running tax software for use by plural independent direct service providers provided with access to the ASP server.
Claim 12: The method according to claim 1, wherein the corresponding reference materials comprise image files of physical reference materials.	Claim 13: The method according to claim 1, wherein the corresponding reference materials comprise image files of physical reference materials.	Claim 18: The method according to claim 1, wherein the corresponding reference materials comprise image files of physical reference materials.
Claim 13: The method according to claim 1, wherein the client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials comprise tax filer specific tax files and image files.	Claim 14: The method according to claim 1, wherein the client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials comprise tax filer specific tax files and image files.	Claim 19: The method according to claim 1, wherein the ultimate client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials comprise tax filer specific tax files and image files.
Claim 14: The method according to claim 13, further comprising loading onto the remotely accessible part of the host server tax preparation software	Claim 15: The method according to claim 14, further comprising loading onto the remotely accessible part of the host server tax preparation software.	Claim 20: The method according to claim 19, further comprising loading onto the remotely accessible part of the host server tax preparation software.
Claim 15: The method according to claim 1, wherein the outsourced personnel prepare tax returns while located in India.	Claim 16: The method according to claim 1, wherein the outsourced personnel prepare tax returns while located in India.	Claim 21: The method according to claim 1, wherein the outsourced personnel perform the financial service projects while located in India.
Claim 16: The method according to claim 1, further comprising a given direct service provider interviewing a tax filer and obtaining supporting documentation for the tax filer's tax return.	Claim 17: The method according to claim 1, further comprising a given direct service provider interviewing a tax filer and obtaining supporting documentation for the tax filer's tax return.	Claim 22: The method according to claim 1, further comprising a given direct service provider interviewing a tax filer and obtaining supporting documentation for the tax filer's tax return.

Art Unit: 4137

Claim 17: The method according to claim 16, wherein the direct service provider comprises an accounting firm.	Claim 18: The method according to claim 17, wherein the direct service provider comprises an accounting firm.	Claim 23: The method according to claim 22, wherein the direct service provider comprises a CPA firm.
Claim 18: The method according to claim 16, wherein the supporting documentation comprises the last season tax return as filed, receipts, and summary information regarding finances of the tax filer.	Claim 19: The method according to claim 17, wherein the supporting documentation comprises the last season tax return as filed, receipts, and summary information regarding finances of the tax filer.	Claim 24: The method according to claim 23, wherein the supporting documentation comprises the last season tax return as filed, receipts, and summary information regarding finances of the tax filer.
Claim 19: The method according to claim 18, further comprising the given direct service provider setting up a tax file compatible with a given tax software package, and rendering the supporting documentation electronic.	Claim 20: The method according to claim 19, further comprising the given direct service provider setting up a tax file compatible with a given tax software package, and rendering the supporting documentation electronic.	Claim 25: The method according to claim 24, further comprising the given direct service provider setting up a tax file compatible with a given tax software package, and rendering the supporting documentation electronic.
Claim 20: The method according to claim 19, wherein rendering the supporting documentation electronic comprises scanning supporting documents into image files.		Claim 26: The method according to claim 25, wherein rendering the supporting documentation electronic comprises scanning supporting documents into image files.

Claim 1 of the instant application discloses a financial services outsourcing method for facilitating outsourcing of tax return preparation services. The copending applications both disclose a financial services outsourcing method that reads on the instant application. It is obvious that tax preparation services are financial services. Claims 2-20 of the instant application are identical to claims in the copending applications as detailed in the table above.

Furthermore, there is no apparent reason why applicant would be prevented from presenting claims corresponding to those of the instant application in the other copending application. See *In re Schneller*, 397 F.2d 350, 158 USPQ 210 (CCPA 1968). See also MPEP § 804.

Art Unit: 4137

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faris Almatrahi whose telephone number is (571) 270-3326. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Akm Ullah can be reached on (571) 272-2361. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Faris Almatrahi  
Examiner  
Art Unit 4137

FA

  
AKM ULLAH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER